



Metro



I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Urges Public to Avoid Complacency, Plan Ahead During I-405 Closure

Los Angeles — The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) today urged the public to resist complacency and plan ahead during the closure of Interstate 405 (I-405) in both directions between Interstate 10 (I-10) and US 101 this weekend, Sept. 29 – 30, 2012. The freeway will be closed for 53 hours while crews demolish the north side of the Mulholland Bridge as part of the Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project.

"The new I-405 carpool lane will be the nation's longest, providing congestion relief and improved travel times," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "This closure is a milestone in a critical regional transportation project that will benefit all Californians."

Caltrans staff will monitor traffic around the clock from the Los Angeles Regional Transportation Management Center (TMC) for the entire duration of the closure. The Department will be in constant communication with other transportation and emergency services agencies to update them on freeway conditions and to provide immediate incident management.

Caltrans will also have 30 additional portable electronic signs on the freeways during the closure to provide travel information to motorists — in addition to the 100 permanent electronic signs in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

"Our biggest concern isn't the bridge demolition on I-405 — it's potential congestion on the rest of the freeway system," said District 7 Director Mike Miles. "We don't want people to become complacent based on the success of last year's closure. Once again, it's vitally important that we all plan ahead, avoid the area, and eat, shop and play locally. Otherwise, there will be problems."

"The risk factors that caused transportation, law enforcement and emergency response agencies heartburn during last year's I-405 freeway closure have not changed," said K.N. Murthy, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) executive director of Transit Project Delivery. "I-405 is still the nation's busiest freeway. Other connecting L.A. freeways have their own congestion challenges on weekends. The closure is still in the geographically constrained Sepulveda Pass, where there are no immediate or effective alternate routes. That's why we still need the public's full and complete cooperation if this second closure operation is going to be as successful as the first."

For those who must use the freeway system during the closure, Caltrans' new QuickMap can help them make smart choices about their route before they leave and avoid congestion. Visitors to the online interactive travel map can access nearly 1,000 freeway cameras and more than 700 electronic message signs on highways statewide. They can also monitor traffic congestion, California Highway Patrol incidents, travel time information, lane closures due to highway roadwork, and Amber Alerts.

Motorists can also call 511 before they leave to get real-time traffic information or visit go511.com. Those who find themselves in need of non-emergency assistance while on the freeway can call #399 to summon the Freeway Service Patrol, which provides basic roadside assistance free of charge.

Background

The I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project, a joint effort between Caltrans and Metro, will complete the remaining 10-mile gap of the northbound I-405 carpool lane system over the Sepulveda Pass, creating a continuous carpool lane of almost 73 miles in each direction stretching from Orange County to the San Fernando Valley — the longest in the world. Scheduled for completion in 2013, the project will significantly improve traffic flow for commuters and further expand District 7's 512-mile carpool lane system, the largest in the nation.

Closure Details

On Friday, Sept. 28, ramps along the 10-mile closure area will begin to be shut down as early as 7 p.m., and closure of lanes will begin at 10 p.m. The closure is scheduled to continue until 5 a.m. Monday morning, Oct. 1. Ramps and connectors will be reopened by 6 a.m. During this closure, the Mulholland Bridge, I-405 and access ramps will be closed.

Closure Contacts (to be used Sept. 28 after 5 p.m. through Oct. 1 at 8 a.m.)

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